

Faith in God

Read I Peter 5:6-11

"And the God of all grace . . . shall himself perfect, establish, strengthen you."

Who can comprehend God in all His majesty and power without feeling mighty small and insignificant by comparison? And to know that God loves us personally and saves us from the pitfalls of sin is an overwhelming truth. As we realize God's grace in Christ, we marvel at His majesty and glory in His love. We are nothing in His eyes, yet He loves us and has promised to exalt us in due time.

Why should Christians be so prone to worry when they believe in God? Is it not true that the more faith and love we have in some dependable person, the more confidence we have in him? Ought not we, therefore, have more confidence in God the better and longer we know Him? Christians should worry less and less the longer they live in Christ. Jesus taught that God not only cares for our spiritual welfare, but He also cares for our physical welfare. "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He careth for you."

This does not mean indifference on our part. We are to be positive in our attitude toward God, and on guard against the evil one who seeks to undermine our life with sin. Christ's words, "He who is not with me, is against me," is a warning against passiveness. It may be a comfort to know others fight the same battles and face the same sins as you. Every hour life brings with it a multitude of choices.

How good to know that during this present struggle, the God of all grace is our help. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." He called us. He still calls everyone who has not come to Him. Confidence in Him will perfect, establish and strengthen you for time and eternity.

We long to be perfect, and this we shall be. Though there are, and will be in this life, many imperfections and sin in us; yet by His grace He forgives and helps us become less sinful, and in the hereafter we shall be perfect according to the fulness of His promise. Be confident that He shall establish you. "Be persuaded, that He is able to keep that which you have committed unto Him against that day." He strengthens His own, and will not permit any temptation above that you are able to bear. Be confident that He who began a good work in you will perfect it unto the end.

—G. E. M.

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute holds its opening service on Monday evening, October 27, with Pastor K. C. Grundahl as speaker. It is encouraging to learn that a number have signified plans of attending this year. It is good to know that the Lord is laying it upon the hearts the need of Bible study.

It is a fine thing for anyone to take a course at the Bible School. Besides the strengthening of the spiritual life through the study of the Word—leading to assurance for some—it often clears up the question as to what place of service the Lord has intended for the individual attending. The quiet study of the Word will often crystallize into definite guidance as to the future. So we appeal for students. Facing as we do a restless and

(Continued on Page Four)

Power For This Hour

PASTOR M. S. JOHNSON, Evangelistic Director, Saskatoon Circuit
Church Discipline in the Book of Acts

Church discipline is concerned with the reformation of the one who has sinned and the salvation of his soul. It is a mode of treatment which is to be followed by the Christian congregation with regard to other Christian members who have lapsed in the faith either in doctrine or life.

In Galatians 6:1, Paul gives the spirit in which church discipline is to be approached. "Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in a trespass, ye who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted." In order to establish the case for church discipline we shall have to continue to draw from the epistles for a moment. In I Cor. 5:6-7, Paul says: "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Purge out the old leaven." Thus we see that we have here the church's protective action to safeguard the others from contamination. It is also to safeguard the order of the church. In II Thess. 3:6 and 14-15, Paul says: "Now we command you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourself from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition received from us . . . and if any man obeyeth not our word by this epistle note that man that ye have no company with him to the end that he may be ashamed. And yet, count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother." It also maintains the perfect clarity of the church testimony. In Eph. 5:11, Paul says: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them."

Thus we see that God is concerned with the protection and continuing purity of His church. He knows that if sin goes unrebuked and tolerated in the body of the church that it can ruin the guilty and, even worse, it can drag others down to ruin with him. It can also impair the church's testimony so that unsaved people in their offences at the sin-filled lives of professing Christians, will not be won for Christ. The greatest ally that the devil can have is not opposition from without the church, but sinful defection from within.

In the Book of Acts we see a powerful instance of God's holy concern for the purity of His church. We see where the hand of God reached into two human souls and revealed sin and its consequence. The case is that of Ananias and Sapphira, recorded in chapter five. Their sin was one of hypocrisy. It was the sin of pretending to have spiritual zeal and power which they really did not possess. While their heart had departed from the Lord and they had inwardly wedded themselves to covetousness and self love, they, nevertheless, coveted the honor of being seen of men as singularly selfless, Christ centered, and zealous of the Lord's work. Hence they brought only a portion of their gift to the Lord and represented it as the whole. Before the congregation and for all the centuries to behold the Holy Spirit of God acted according to I Cor. 5:6-7 and purged out the old leaven of sin before it had a chance to spread and corrupt the spiritual lives of others who were sincere. The Holy Spirit here executed a judgment which still takes place in the spiritual world, but is not ordinarily exhibited before the eyes of men until the great day of judgment.

Here we see that the wages of sin is death. Let the church of all ages take warning. These two had sinned unto death. Let us pray God to safeguard our church for the ravages of error in life and also in doctrine.

In Acts 20:29 Paul said to the Ephesian elders: "I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock." We need therefore to exercise the discipline that God demands if we are to preserve the church. On the other side we see the spirit of Galatians 6:1 exhibited in Acts 18:24-28. Appollos was a mighty preacher; but he was in doctrinal error because of imperfect indoctrination. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and in an understanding spirit of brotherly love they set him right on various important points. Injury to the church was prevented and great blessing resulted. While this case is perhaps not thought of under the heading of church discipline, it, nevertheless, is true that prevention is the best medicine.

As we see Paul's ready testimony to Christ, let us remember that a true heart allegiance to Christ will always be the best discipline the church can ever have.

The Gospel of Unity

By GILBERT A. JENSEN

Reprinted from The Ansgar Lutheran Clearly set forth in the Scriptures is the picture of the Church as one sympathetic organism of which Christ is the Head. Equally lucid is the prayer of Christ that His may be united, "That all may be one." For too long now we have rather gloried in divisions, haughtily boasting about the superiority of the segment to which we belonged, disdaining all the while to sympathetically regard fellow believers and fellow Lutherans. Meanwhile we have been lustily singing, Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;

Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.

We are not divided, all one body we . .

Singing about unity is so different from turning a program in that direction. So we have turned from our singing and reading of the Scriptures to a program on apportionments which supported disunity and further disunity. In song and in doctrine unity is wonderful, but when it is expounded practically it has become "heresy." Dare anyone suggest that we unite in the interest of a more faithful stewardship so that we might prosecute the work more effectively and lo, he is accused of surrendering. Sentimentalists are forever shouting, "The old is good"; ready to damn to perdition that which is new. But this is no time to be moved by sentimentalism . . .

For a long time now the Midwest has been a hodge-podge of chaotic Lutheran fields, full of churches which came into existence for reasons which are now irrelevant. Some were born in animosity, some were set up to serve people speaking a particular foreign language, and others were established for the convenience of those who travelled by horse and buggy. But for sentimentalism many of them would have been closed at this date. Grandparents are buried in the graveyard; so the church is maintained simply to keep the congregation near the burial grounds. Nearby stands another Lutheran church

Topics of Interest

PURPOSES UNFULFILLED

The farmer was out looking over his crops. Rubbing the kernels out of the heads of wheat he found only a few shrivelled kernels. All the upper husks on the head were empty. A few of the lower ones had kernels in them but they were badly stunted. The farmer shook his head sadly as he said to himself, "That head was meant to be filled with a large number of kernels of plump wheat—but it's been too dry."

How like I am to that dried-up head of wheat! Through baptismal grace and Christian nurture in youth's spring and summer God has furnished me with roots, leaves and a stalk for fruit-bearing. The circumstances and opportunities I have had, are like the husks on the head of wheat—they furnish the place for the kernels of "good works which God before prepared that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:18). But how many of God's purposes for my life have been unfulfilled! How many empty husks! And the kernels there are,—what a poor and shrivelled sample!

Why? The wheat plant in the farmer's field may not have had the moisture it needed, but I cannot bring that excuse for the poor yield from my life. God has sent rain—showers of blessing. But the good seed God planted has had too much competition from weeds and thorns. I have permitted the cares and pleasures of this life to absorb God's blessings leaving the ground hard and dry for God's wheat plant. Being choked with the cares and pleasures of this life it could bring no fruit to perfection (Luke 8:14).

If God's purpose with me (and with you) are to be filled with the plump kernels God has planned and purposed, then we must get rid of the weeds and let God's wheat plant absorb all the nourishment and moisture God sends it. Let us confess our sins, repent of them, and receive God's grace to grow and bear good fruit through our Lord Jesus Christ. Then shall God find every husk filled with goodly wheat—according to His purpose.

—A.K.H.

which can easily house the few who meet by their buried ancestors; but, no, forty years ago a squabble—about which the moderns have not the slightest inkling as to what occasioned it—separated them, so the merger is stymied.

Join E.L.C. Immediately

To bring these churches together it will be necessary to begin at the top. As long as these two neighboring churches are called upon to support different institutions, official sanction supports their shameful separation. I am not here thinking about a new body fashioned from a mud and iron unification of every church and sect in Christendom, but I am thinking of the unity of the Lutheran Church. Why should we not begin uniting by joining hands with the E.L.C. immediately? You cannot call uniting with a big sister the waving of a white flag in surrender. Such flags are raised when we capitulate to an evil power. Which of our young people, attending the schools of this sister synod, have discovered that her spirit was alien to ours? Which of our pastors, meeting with her pastors, have not happily discovered that they were brothers?

Unification of other Lutheran bodies should follow, and until that unity is achieved, the magnanimity that was Abraham's should prevail. If

(Continued on Page Two)

The Shepherd - Hyrden

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THE HUMAN FACTOR

The Year of Evangelism, 1947, is over one half gone. We know, of course, that 1947 is the beginning and it will be carried on with even greater vigor in 1948. Yet the challenge of 1947 is upon us. There is much to be done. There is urgency to get on with the work. In many places the survey has been completed. In other places it is yet unfinished. The third stage, that of witnessing, is still largely unfinished according to reports of July 1.

A report of the Christian Worker's Institute by the correspondent elected, will be given later. There is much of interest to report. We shall give a preview of a part of that conference because it deals with evangelism. It was Dr. Storaasli's studies in "The Relation of Sanctification to Evangelism". The equation that he placed on the blackboard during the first class clearly brought out how timely was the subject he was to deal with. It brought out that the "human factor" was the unknown factor in the evangelism of the world. The "All Power" of Christ is constant; the Great Commission is eternal; the Means of Grace are effective yet the human factor makes the results vary.

Yes, the "human factor" in the year of evangelism has a great part to play. Christ works through human lives. It was so in the early church; it is so today. As the human factor in the book of Acts also influenced the ebb and flow of the Gospel that day, it does so now. We need to keep clearly before us that each one who loves the Lord is to be witness for Christ. We need also to remember that every human being is a prospective child of God. Then we need to go out to use "His Power", carry out "His commission", through "His means of Grace".

Book Reviews

Under Nippon's New Order, by Hans M. Nesse. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, 425 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

Thirty-seven years in China—the author's record. Eight of these years under the Japanese invaders.

Here are the chapter names: Thunder from the Sons of Heaven; The Servants of His Imperial Majesty; An Example of the New Order; Guests of the Royal House; The House I Impoverished; The Guest Returns Home; and Facing the Future.

Graphic pictures of heroism, defeat and victory will be found in these pages. If the challenge of trials will appeal to new recruits for the Mission field, this book will cause many to answer the call. It is filled with material that has the "tang" of the Book of Acts. The introduction by A. S. Burgess introduces the author to the reader. This book makes fine missionary reading.

* * *

Songs and Poems, by Oscar R. Overby. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn.

Do you love beautiful hymn poems? Here is a little book with the

finest of this type of poetry original and translated. Here are words expressing the deepest longings of the human heart, the profound movements of the soul, couched in words which we should like to use but cannot attain to.

It opens with "A Singing Heart"—who would not want it? And ends with "Ring Bells". In between are 81 beautiful selections. Do you like something like this from "When verdure fades":

The songbird's throbbing echo
So faintly ebbs afar
Solemnity . . . Contentment . . .
And then the evening star.

Or from "Voyage," these words:

Baptismal grace brought Him aboard
To guide across the sea
He left the palace of the Lord
To care for me.

Since "reflection and meditation is the Sunday of the mind," here is restful reading.

* * *

Prayer and Its Power by C. Havig Hjelseth, and translated by Bernhard H. J. Hobel. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, 425 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

There are never too many books on prayer. Prayer is vital. Anything that will cause the reader to reflect on the weakness of his prayer life, or lift the vision to the greater possibilities of prayer is an asset in the Kingdom.

This book does just that. It is simple and practical though it deals with difficult themes such as: The Possibilities of Prayer, the Laws of Prayer, and the Symphony of Prayer.

In the Apostle Paul's prayer life he finds seven prayer topics and in his topic of Intercessory Prayer he lists seven events of the power of prayer recorded in the Bible.

Here are some pungent statements:

"We are often as restless as the man who 'was so busy he did not have time to put his hand to any work.' And again: 'One receives the impression of some people who pray in public that it must have been a long time since they spoke with the Lord.'"

It is a good book on prayer. Nothing new, but old truths plainly and clearly stated. Buy and read it.

Current News

Camrose Lutheran

Camrose Lutheran has completed a very successful Summer Vacation Bible School. The teachers were the Parish Worker, Miss Lucille Hanson, and Mrs. Carl Johnson.

The number of children was greatly increased over last year's attendance. Eighty-five children were enrolled.

A fine program was given by the children Sunday evening, August 24, at the church. It was impressive when the children that had attended the parochial school marched up the two aisles of the church. It was impressive, too, when they sang the beautiful hymns as a group and in special numbers, and as they took part in sharing the things they had learned. And it was impressive also when the children walked around the altar and placed their gifts there for Madagascar Missions. After the service books were on display. These books had been prepared by the pupils of the school. The local pastor, K. C. Grundahl, underscored the message of the children by relating effectively incidents of the tragedy of not learning the word of God, and the blessings of learning it, practicing it, and storing it in the hearts of the children. Teaching children pays temporal and eternal dividends.

* * *

Parochial School Held

Miss Carolie Kopperud of Cadillac, Sask., held parochial school in North and South Immanuel Churches in July.

Mrs. Harold Haakenson in her re-

GIFTS FOR BETHANY SUNSET HOME

(Concluded From Last Week)

Saskatoon, Sask.

Zion Ladies' Aid (Dr. Storaasli), \$10.00.

Sedgewick, Alberta

Davis Storbakken, \$10.00.

In memory of Mrs. H. Knudson—Mrs. M. Severson, Allen and Thelma, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Severson, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. Nels Djos, \$2.00.

Sexsmith, Alberta

Christ Lutheran Ladies' Aid, \$1.00.

Smiley, Sask.

* L. B. Sheets, \$25.00.

Tofield, Alberta

In memory of Mrs. T. Eggen—Mr. and Mrs. G. Hendrickson, \$1.00.

In memory of Mrs. B. Finseth—Bardo congregation, \$10.00.

Valhalla Centre, Alberta

In memory of Mrs. Flaten—The Melsness family, \$2.00; A. Neptad, \$1.00; H. C. Krantz, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Honning, \$1.00; O. J. Velve, \$2.00; H. Buge, \$2.00; E. Buckholdt, \$2.00; Linds & Mrs. Mosesson, \$2.00; A. Hansons and Mrs. Madson, \$2.00.

In memory of Mrs. N. Berge—Mr. and Mrs.

port of the District Convention given to the congregation at the Sunday service, made these pointed suggestions: As a congregation let us furnish a room at the new Seminary in hope that some day one from this congregation be there to use it; let us discuss further the plan of a parish teacher and write the Board of Education that we are ready to begin the plan; the District Meeting and the Circuit Meetings are as vital to the work of our church as is the annual meeting of our congregation.

* * *

Lutheran Placement Bureau

The purpose of the Placement Bureau is to assist in the location of Lutheran families in communities served by our Lutheran Church. Individuals desiring to move into communities served by our church are invited to make use of this service. The Clearing House has not investigated the merits of the proposition advertised here and assumes no responsibility in the matter. The service is free, but if you have benefitted thereby in any way we ask that you remember the Church Paper with any contribution you care to send. All ads and communications concerning ads are to be sent to: Josef B. Haave, Admiral, Sask.

* * *

Hardware business and implement dealership for sale in Saskatchewan town. Selling to clear estate. Submitted to the Bureau by the local Lutheran pastor. 47-2

* * *

New Addresses

Pastor H. L. Urness, 111 32nd Ave., N.W., Calgary, Alta.

Pastor A. K. Odland, Shaunavon, Sask.

THE GOSPEL OF UNITY

(Continued From Page One)

Lot insists on a field, let him have it, and let us be done with this quarrelling between the Shepherds of the Lutheran Church.

There has been some mention made of our synod continuing for another one hundred years. I must believe that the statement was made, as some novelist would say, "with a wry smile." (Perhaps we should have a vote on that statement at the next convention). For let us continue in our old paths with our sinful waste of manpower and money, and we need not be surprised if the response to our appeals for money and men becomes feeble with the years. Can we soberly challenge talented young men to give themselves to the ministry, when we know that they shall simply be asked to preach the Gospel to those who could and should worship with their brethren in the church across the street? Meanwhile, there are fields in the West where no Lutheran church spire is seen in many a growing town. There are none because we have not joined hands. Let us do it now, and take these fields.

A. Olson, \$1.50; E. Buckholdts, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. P. Lee, \$1.00; Valhalla Ladies' Aid (Rev. Strand), \$5.00; Carl Honuland, \$2.00; L. Rorem, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hanson, \$2.00; Buckholdts, \$2.00; B. Velve, \$2.00; Mrs. Viken, \$1.00; A. Olsens, \$1.50.

Immanuel Ladies' Aid, \$10.00.

In memory of A. Jonnasen—T. M. Foberg, \$2.00; Delores and Mrs. Miknes, \$2.00; Mr. Toberg, \$2.00.

Viking, Alberta

In memory of Rev. N. R. T. Braa—Golden Valley Ladies' Aid, \$5.00; Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. A. Holmberg, \$5.00.

In memory of Ed. Thompson—Mr. and Mrs. Erick Johnson and Mary, \$1.00.

In memory of A. Dahl—Mr. and Mrs. C. Knudson, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Peterson, \$2.00; Andrew Holland, \$1.00; Swen Eliason, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Holand, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Pritchard, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holand, \$1.00; Mrs. O. D. Pritchard-Strom, \$1.00; Mrs. Ed. Thompson, \$2.00.

In memory of E. Thompson and W. Ovelson—Golden Valley congregation, \$20.78.

Weldon, Sask.

In memory of G. C. Mark—Mrs. L. Mark, \$6.00.

In memory of Mrs. L. Larson—Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hanson and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Roed, \$2.00.

Westaskiwin, Alberta

In memory of J. J. Anderson—Vang Ladies' Aid, \$3.00.

Edmonton, Alberta

In memory of Mrs. Dagsgaard—Mr. and Mrs. Ole Olsen, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Severine Hope, \$2.00.

Hemet, California

Miss Bertha Eggen, \$100.00.

Lake Alma, Sask.

In memory of Mrs. Ludvig Bangsend—Emmanuel Ladies' Aid, \$5.00.

Provost, Alberta

In memory of Mrs. Paulgaard—Provost Ladies' Aid, \$10.00.

Ryley, Alberta

In memory of G. Mosby—Mr. and Mrs. J. Bruce, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. F. Dorin and family, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Bruce, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Eivold Aspeness, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Gust Johnson and Leonard, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. J. Christopherson, \$1.00.

Amisk Creek, Alberta

Amisk Creek friends, \$5.00.

Armena, Alberta

In memory of Mrs. Knudsvig—Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Lyseng and Ivan, \$1.00.

GIFTS IN NATURE

Bawlf, Alberta

Mr. and Mrs. A. Mosand, 15 dozen eggs; Mr. and Mrs. J. Miles and Mrs. Miles, Sr., 5 bricks ice cream and 1 case ginger ale; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Shannon, 1 case apple juice; Mrs. Bergit Johnson, strawberries, cherries; Mrs. A. J. Pederson, served lunch to members of home.

Crooked River, Sask.

Crooked River L.D.R.—3 packets, several dozen cookies and rice krispy cakes.

Duluth, Minn., U.S.A.

Mrs. M. M. Thompson (president, Our Saviour's Lutheran Missionary Society), 1 quilt.

Edmonton, Alberta

Mrs. H. B. Cooper, 4 pieces toilet soap, 1 pot holder and 1 table scarf.

Haney, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. K. O. Eggen, 1 crate of strawberries.

Sexsmith, Alberta

Christ Lutheran Ladies' Aid (M. Knudson, acting pastor)—4 lbs. jam, 1 lb. cocoa, 2 bars soap, 1 lb. tea, 1 lb. coffee, 1 can corn, 1 can tomatoes, 1 box cookies, 1 box shortbread, 1 man's nightshirt, 2 ladies' sweaters, 2 pairs men's socks, 1 man's shirt, 1 pair men's dress socks and 1 towel.

Study to Show Thyself Approved

The anchor of the Christian Life is Christ.

Christ is found in the Word. C. L. B. I. offers study of God's Word and subjects related to Christian life and service. Christian Fellowship, and opportunities for service.

Registration Monday, Oct. 27, 1947
No Tuition. Five-Month School Year

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Address all inquiries to

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN
BIBLE INSTITUTE

CAMROSE

ALBERTA

Jeg er den gode Hyrde.
Joh. 10:11

Hyrden

JEG ER DØREN TIL FAARENE.—Joh. 10:7

Den gode Hyrde setter sit
liv til for faarene.
Joh. 10:11

Wadena, Sask., Første No. i September, 1947.

Bønneboken

Av Sigurd Berg i "F. F. og R."

Der kom ny prest til et sted. En stund framover var alt saa framifra. Presten talte saa godt at det var riktig en nytelse aa høre ham.

Men etter en tids forløp begynte det aa bli annerledes. Presten var ikke saa ny og fengslende lenger, og de mest aktpaagivende syntes han virket trett mangel gang og at han manglet noe av den tidligere glød. De snakket om det sig imellem. Men en eldre kristen gikk til presten og snakket med ham om saken.

Presten hørte paa ham i taushet. Omsider sa han: "Det er v isst riktig det du sier. Og jeg tror jeg vet grunnen til foranringen. Jeg har mistet bønneboken min."

"Hvad? Mistet bønneboken?"

"Ja, ser du. Dengang jeg kom hit til stedet bad dere for mig alle sammen. Da var alt godt. Men saa ble det etter hvert saa selvfølgelig allting. Dere sluttet aa be. Dermed mistet jeg bønneboken."

Den gamle gikk betenkt hjem. Det ver noe i det presten hadde sagt. Han nevnte det for noen andre. De begynte paa ny aa be , og det viste sig snart at naa var bønneboken kommet igjen.

Det er ikke bare for en prest det er godt aa ha en slik levende bønnebok.

Det er godt for de unge aa ha de eldre til aa be for sig. Det er godt for de syke aa bli baaret paa bønnens armer. Det er godt for mor og det er godt for far at det er noen som husker dem i bønn. Det er godt for hver sök-ende og urolig sjel at der er bønnering om dem.

Be for hverandre og med hverandre, sier Skriften. "Bær hverandres byrder og oppfyll paa den maate Kristi lov."

Det er en underlig kraft i forbønn. Den baner vei hvor andre veier er stengt. Den bringer velsigning som kanskje de færreste aner. Men ikke desto mindre er det bønn som er nøkkelen til saa mangen vekkelse, saa mangt et aandsfylt vitnesbyrd, og saa mange frukter som kom i sin tid.

"Kan jeg ikke gaa til barna mine med Gud, saa kan jeg gaa til Gud med barna," sa en mor engang. Hun hadde lært bønnens hemmelighet.

"Kunne I ikke vaake en time med mig," sa Jesus bedrøvet da han under Getsemmane-kampen fant displene sovende. Han trengte deres dorbønn den gangen.

Naa i dag? Finner Frelseren dig aktiv i forbønnens tjeneste eller sovende?

Bed For Dine Barn!

En manns eldste s nn ble en dag baaret bevisstløs hjem. Det ble gjort alt som sto i menneskemakt for aa bringe ham til sig selv igjen; men doktoren sa: "Han dør."

"Doktor," sa faren i angst, "kan De ingen ting gjøre for aa faa ham til bevissthet, om bare for et øyeblikk?"

"Det kan hende," sa lægen, "men han aldri leve."

Etter en stund full av den forferdeligste angst ble farens ønske oppfylt.

"Min sønn," hvisket han, "lægen sier du skal dø."

"Ja," sa gutten, "du ba aldri for mig, far, vil du be for min sjel?"

Faren graat. Det var sant. Han hadde aldri bedt. Han var fremmed for Gud. Innen kort tid gikk denne sjel som faren aldri hadde bedt for, inn i evigheten. Hvor gjerne hadde ikke denne for naa gitt alt hvad han eide for aa faa kjøpt denne sjel tilbake fra døden.

Del Ikke Ditt Hjerte

15 s.etter tref. Matt. 6:24-34

"Vær ikke bekymret for eders liv, hvad I skal ete og hvad I skal drikke, eller for eders legeme, hvad I skal klæ ede med! Er ikke livet mere enn maten, og legemet mere enn klærne?" Slik roper Jesus til oss idag. Og hvem av oss trenger ikke aa lytte til hans ord? Vaare hjerter er ofte saa fulle av alle slags bekymringer. Kommer noe i veien for oss, krysses vaare berekninger og planer, saa staar vi der og spør med engstelse og bekymring: hvordan skal det gaa med meg? Vi glemmer saa lett at Gud staar ved roret og har baade makt og kjærlighet til aa lede alle til til det beste for oss, saa sant vi elsker ham og legger all ting i hans hender.

Men særlig vil bekymringene ta over haand naar vi trues av skydom og fattigdom, og ikke har nok til vort daglige utkomme. Og næringssorger er de verste sorger for oss. Erfaringen vitner ofte om det. Naar hjertet fylles av næringssorger saa mister mange lett sin tro og sitt haap og gir seg over i fortvilelse. Det er farlig aa gi etter for næringssorger.

I denne faren stod ogsaa Jesu egne disipler til hvem Jesu ord først lød. De hadde jo forlatt sitt haandverk og sin fiskerbaat, sine jordiske stillinger for aa følge Mesteren. Saalenge han var hos dem var det saavist ingen fare for næringssorg. Han sørget for dem i alle ting. Men anderledes ville det stille seg for dem naar Jesus forlot dem med sin legemlige nærvøerelse. Da ville fristelsen til aa engstes for det daglige brød komme.

La Dig Ikke Hindre!

Evangeliet er det glade budskap om Guds kjærlighet og om hans kjærlighets offer. Det er en herlig innbydelse til alle om aa bli frelst og lykkelige mennesker baade her og hisset.

Likevel er det saa mange som ikke tar imot det. Hvad er aarsaken hertil? Hvad er det som hindrer saa mange?

Guds ord forteller oss om flere ting som er virkelige og alvorlige hindringer for evangeliets framgang. Vi vil peke paa en av disse hindringer idag: Evangeliets svorne motshander. Satan.

"De ved veien er de som hører det; saa kommer djevelen og tar ordet bort fra deres hjerte, forat de ikke skal tro og bli frelst!" (Luk. 8, 12.).

"Er da enn vaart evangelium skjult, saa er det skjult blant dem som gaar fortapt, i hvem denne verdens gud har forblindet de vantros sinn, forat lyset fra evangeliet om Kristi herlighet, hans som er Guds billed, ikke skal skinne for dem" (2 Kor. 4, 3—4).

Slik taler den Hellige Aand om den store hindring for evangeliet idag.

Først forsøker han paa aa faa et menneske til aa sette un med sin omvendelse; og for at det skal lykkes, kan han stundom endog forkynne at Gud er naadig. Et suk i døden er nok, hvisker han. Du skal nok bli frelst du ogsaa, det haster ikke. Naar saa et menneske likevel begynner aa gjøre alvor med sin omvendelse, saa hvisker han i sjelen: Nu er det for sent. Du har motstaatt saa lenge at Gud har forkastet dig.

La dig ikke hindre av din sjelefiende fra aa omvende dig!

Hindringer er mange, gjør motstand min sjel, Satan ei naaden dig under.

Treng dig gjennom alt som vil hindre ditt vel.

La verdens vellyst gaa under!

—Johannes Daasvand.

Men Jesus sier: Vær ikke bekymret! Og hvorfor ikke ha bekymringer? Fordi de er unyttige. Du kan ikke med all dine bekymringer gjøre fra eller til. Du kan ikke legge en alen til din livslenge om du enn bekymrer deg aldri saa mye. Og dernest er bekymringer unødvendige. Gud sørger for alle sine skapninger. Han vet hva vi trenger. Og han er din himmelske Far med en fars ømhet og kjærlighet. Sørger han for fuglene med mat, og klær han den ufølsomme natur med den vakreste klædrakt, vil han da ikke mye mere sørge for deg som han skapte i sitt eget bilde, og gjenløste med sin egen søns dyre blod?

Men skal du da ingenting gjøre? Skal du slett ikke sørge for noe? Det du skal gjøre er aa være tro ditt jordiske kall, og saa overlate framtida i hans haand, som i sitt Ord lover at han vil ha omsorg for deg.

Men skal det lykkes for deg aa kaste alle dine bekymringer paa Herren, saa er det ubetinget nødvendig for deg aa eterkomme Jesu formaning: Søk først Guds rike og hans rettferdighet, saa skal I faa alt dete i tilgift! Det vil si alt det du trenger. For kun det menneske som setter sin sjels frelse som det viktigste av alt, har det løfte at alle ting skal legges til for ham. Det hjerte som er helt med Jesus, som har fred med Gud i en god samvittighet for Jesu skyld, det hjerte alene faar kraft til aa legge alle bekymringer paa ham.

Dersom du overvinnes og overmannes av mange timlige bekymringer saa er aarsaken denne: Du har ikke gitt ditt hjerte helt til Gud. Du som plages og nages av mange slags sorger: Gi deg over til Jesus Kristus, og du skal erfare at ditt hjerte finner ro midt i bekymringer og sorger, for Kristus gir deg kraft til aa overvinne dem. Og din sjel har hvile.

Sørg aa kjære Fader, du, Jeg vil ikke sørge. Ikke med bekymret hu Om min fremtid spørge. Sørg du for mig all min tid, Sørg for mig og mine, Gud, allmektig, naadig, blid, Sørg for alle dine.

(Rev. Landstad 561.1)

—H. Arnholt Strand

Alvor Over Vaart Liv

Ingen av oss kjenner framtiden, hvad den bringer av godt eller ondt, av liv eller død. Bare én ting vet vi, og det er at det blir alvorligere aa leve. Maatte vi derfor ta kristendommen mer alvorlig baade naar det gjelder vaart eget liv, vaart folks liv og arbeidet ute blant hedningene. Alle vi som bekjenner oss til kristendommen, vi har ansvar for utbredelsen av Guds budskap. Vi skal ikke bare ta imot det med glede, men ogsaa gi det fra oss til andre med glede.

Og la oss saa aldri glemme, at selv om vi lever i tiden, hører vi ikke tiden, men evigheten til. Husker vi dette, blir det alvor over vaart liv, et alvor større enn det krigen bringer med sig. Da merker vi ogsaa faren, slik at det ikke skal sies til oss at vi gaar evig fortapt. Vi kan ikke selv skikke oss for evigheten, men Gud kan det for Jesu hkyld. La oss da ta imot denne Jesus, Guds innsats i tiden. Da skal det med sannhet sies at Gud selv er kommet til oss for at du og jeg skal leve i all evighet.—r. Schjelderup.

Gud gir sorger i beger og velsignelser i strømmen.—F. B. Meyer.

I Brennpunktet

DIN BOKHYLLE

Mange mennesker er ikke klar over hvor stor innflytelse deres bøker og det de ellers leser, øver dem. Med en viss rett er det blitt sagt: "Si meg hva du leser, og jeg skal si deg hvem du er." Ditt bibliotek vil si mere om deg selv enn du aner.

Men vaare bøker er ikke bare vaare venner. Der finnes ogsaa bøker som er vaare fiender. Vi velger vaare venner ellers med temmelig skarp kritikk, men naar det gjelder bøker, er vi ikke alltid saa kresen. Derfor suger mange, ogsaa kristne, inn mye gift gjennom det de leser. Og mange har faatt sit kristenliv plyndret, fattig og kraftløst gjennom de de leser.

Derfor vil det kanskje lønne seg for deg aa gaa kritisk gjennom din bokhylle, og det som ellers kommer inn under lesestoff. Og tenk saa etter hva du egentlig sluker i dagens løp av aviser og magasiner som har skadeligere virkning paa ditt aandsliv enn du er tilbøyelig til aa tro . . .

Det kan ikke nektes at det er mye godt lesestoff, som gir verdifull orientering og ofte ogsaa kunnskaper som vil være av betydning i livet. Men der er ogsaa mye som river ned. Og det bør vi være paa vakt for.

Situasjonen blir alvaarlig naar alt dette andre vi leser tar fra deg trangten til aa lese Guds ord. Den slags lesning skal du vokte deg for, enten det naar er bøkene i din bokhylle eller dagens aviser og magasiner.

I siste instans er det bare Guds ord som kan være "lykte for min fot og lys paa min sti." Men alt det som kan hjelpe deg til aa trenge dypere inn i Guds ord og berike ditt aandelige liv, det kan trygt gis en plass i din bokhylle. Og brukes hver dag med takk. Hvordan ser din bokhylle ut? Hva leser du? Og hvorledes leser du? —H.A.S.

Tungen

"Den benløse tungen, saa liten og svak, kan baade knuse og drepe," sier et gresk ordspraak.

"Tungen tilintetgjør en større hær enn sverdet," sier tyskerne.

"Tungen kan tale ord som flyr hurtigere enn den blinkeste travet kan springe," sier kineserne.

"Tungens store lagerrum er hjertet," paastaar araberne.

Hebreeerne har gitt oss dette dyp-sindige ord: "Om føttene snubler, la aldri tungen snuble."

"Den som bevarer sin tunge fra ondt, bevarer sin sjel fra angst," sier Bibelen.

Tem tungen, lær aa tøyle den!

Et Godt Svar

"Jeg kan ikke forstaa," sa en dame en gang, "hvorfor en som har ført et godt moralsk liv ikke skulle ha bedre utsikt til aa komme inn i himmelen enn den ugudelige."

"Simpelt hen av den grunn," svarte den annen i selskapet — "sett at De og jeg ønsker aa komme paa en konsert hvor billetten koster 5 kroner. De har 4 kroner og jeg ingen — hvem vil da være nærmest til aa slippe inn?"

"Ingen."

"Nettopp, og derfor har den moralske mann ikke bedre utsikter enn den grove synder. Men sett nu at en vennlig og rik person saa vaar forlegenhet og spanderte billetten paa oss? Hvad da?"

"Ja, da slapp vi inn begge."

Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (Continued From Page One)

complex future we need to be grounded in the Word of God. Bible School attendance is one of the means by which this is made possible.

The teachers secured for the fall term are: Pastor Otto Eklund, Meeting Creek; Pastor T. Maakestad, Edmonton; Missionary Peter Stolee, Camrose, and Pastor Vinge.

Necessary repairs have been made at the Institute which has entailed quite an expense, but we are confident that the Lord will lay it upon the hearts of His people also to meet this need. Some of the floors have been sanded, and new covering for the stairs has been laid. There is painting and varnishing and the building of a garage yet to be done.

Application blanks, information folder may be had for the asking. Address all communications to the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose, Alberta.

Wanted—Bible Students

S.L.B.I. is at this writing (August 22) facing the seemingly disconcerting situation that relatively few young people have signified their intention of enrolling in the Bible Department this year. With the prospective enrollment in the High School Department less than in previous years, the staff is a bit disturbed about the situation.

It has been suggested that one reason for the above mentioned circumstance is that these past years our facilities have been crowded to the limit, even after applicants to the High School department have been turned away. As a result there may have been built up in the minds of many the attitude that there just is no use to apply. Should this be the case, this brief article is intended to emphasize the fact that there is yet room at S.L.B.I.

Since by the time this appears in print the plans of the High School students will be definite, this appeal is directed especially to those who could be, and should be, enrolled in the Bible Department of S.L.B.I. this coming school year. Face prayerfully the question of your enrolling for Bible study. Encourage others to face the same question. Pray for this coming school year.

G. O. E.

Prince Albert Circuit L.D.R.

An L.D.R. Workers' Conference was held at Birch Hills on June 7 in conjunction with the W.M.F. circuit convention. Nineteen girls representing the seven L.D.R.'s in the circuit, met to discuss the work of the L.D.R. There were reports from the various secretaries. The girls were encouraged to make use of the Prayer Cards dealing with L.D.R. projects, which had previously been sent out, also to choose Prayer Partners and to enroll in the Missionary for a Day Plan. The first worker's conference was held last year at Prince Albert.

The annual circuit convention was held on July 12 at Christopher Lake Bible Camp. The theme, Christ's call, "Follow Me", based on Matt. 4:19 was developed by three speakers: 1. In personal salvation and consecration—Evelyn Haave. 2. In my friendships—Helen Frostad. 3. In my life work—Isobel Kaldor.

Mr. S. Fengstad also spoke to those present. We were happy to have one of our own girls from the circuit, Sister Martha Grace Haugan, speak to us on the work of the Diaconate.

The officers elected were: President, May Dragseth; Vice-President, Alice Stalwick; Secretary-treasurer, Marie Stensrud; Worship Offering secretary, Carrie Hesje; Box Work secretary, Alice Hanson; Treasure Chest secretary, Marian Haave; Historian, Eloise Roberts.

Our prayer is that our L.D.R.'s may become more Christ-centred, more missionary-minded to the glory of His name. —May Dragseth, pres.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

MRS. GILBERT HOYME, Editor, Camrose, Alberta

The President's Message

I wish to greet every Ladies' Aid in our District with I Cor. 3:9, "For we are God's fellow-workers . . ." Yes, God has called us to be His fellow-workers. You and I shall be privileged to work together with God, and He Himself invites us to this. He invites us to take up work in the greatest business concern ever. There is work for all and room for all. I ask that all societies will co-operate whole-heartedly in this work that many more may learn to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, too.

"I thank Him that enabled me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, for that He counted me faithful, appointing me to His service." I Tim. 1:12. To be in Royal Service is a wonderful privilege yet at the same time to be in a position of responsible leadership is a fearsome and awesome experience. Had I not been with the women of the nominating committee in their prayer sessions seeking God's guidance in the choice of a president, my reaction would have been one of refusal. But when the convention group move together in unity under God, to decline would be to neglect greater opportunities for service in the Kingdom. If we but have faith, God will give the strength to do His work. May I simply be an instrument in His hands.

The many words of encouragement and the prayers of Christian friends are a source of strength as I take over the duties of District president. A leader can do nothing without the support of fellow workers.

With this issue, Mrs. Hoyme takes over the editorship of this, our W.M.F. page. In the past four years it has been my lot to prepare the page, and I wish to thank all those who contributed material for it. Do your very best to keep your new editor supplied with items of interest. Send any material you have to her and she will edit it and prepare it for printing. We wish God's blessing on her work, and also may He bless all the officers of our W.M.F. that they may truly be messengers for Him.

In His service,
Mrs. J. B. Haave, newly elected
W.M.F. president.

The Editor's Message

May I suggest to the Ladies' Aids that they have Mrs. Bue's article read at their mission program this month. Watch this page for articles from time to time that will deal directly with the work of the various departments of the W.M.F. Each district secretary will send in reminders of what needs to be done in her department. We shall try to make these columns informative as well as inspirational. This is your page, paid for by the Ladies' Aids themselves with the money sent in to the district treasury. Your new district president will also contact the Ladies' Aids through this page so read it every month to keep yourself posted.

Kindly send in news items that may be of interest to all our Lutheran women in the Canada district. Contributions must be in by the tenth of the month if they are to appear in the following month's issue. For example, if you wish an article to be in the December issue, the material must be on hand November tenth. The W.M.F. columns are always in the first issue.

I need no introduction to many of you, having been district treasurer for the past eight years. It is with a feeling of unworthiness that I embark upon this new venture as editor, but if the call came from God to serve in this capacity, He alone can make me a vessel fit for His use. The name and address of the new district treasurer is: Mrs. Ernst Anderson, 1102, University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask.

Pray for the new executive and

September — Mission Boxes Month

The aim of all mission work is to establish channels through which the means of grace may be brought to the people. To preach, teach, and to live according to the Word of God is the most important work of the Kingdom of God, whether here at home or abroad. This is done by the white workers, the native workers, and native Christian lay people. Foreign hospitals, especially in the foreign mission fields of our church are in the provinces of Honan and Hupeh, China; Natal and Zululand, South Africa; Madagascar and South America.

Education and medical work serve hand in hand in the gospel ministry in bringing the Word to the lost. Many of the souls who today find their joy in Christ had their first contact with Christianity through the schools or countries.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . .", thereby inviting us to be his co-workers in extending His Kingdom, and we must gladly give of our time, talent, and means in His service. When we give of our means we really are not giving, since what we have is not our own — it really belongs to the Lord. "The silver is mine and the gold is mine," saith the Lord of Hosts, "For every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle upon a thousand hills."

Our W.M.F. mission box is a sort of bank where we put our money, which we want to use for people who need our help, here in our own land and far away in other lands, too. We need to help the sailors, the blind, the Indians, and people who have no churches or pastors. Children, too, can be taught to tithe and to give our Lord His own by permitting them to put their pennies in the mission box, instead of always buying candy or gum. It is much more blessed to give than to receive, and what a thrill we get when we watch our children place their pennies in the mission box, because they give with such overwhelming joy in their hearts. Why not let them?

Consider the joy of our Lord when he watches us give and even sacrifice say even a new hat or a new dress, in order that we may help others who are in need, as we place our gifts in the mission box with a prayer, thus putting our trust in Him. We may rest assured that he will direct the money into the right channels. If we are not willing to surrender or give, then our Lord is also able to take away that with which he already blessed us. Let us be faithful stewards that our Saviour may have His will in us.

September is the month for the mission program in your Ladies' Aid and the ingathering of the mission boxes that should have been in every home during the year. If you have no mission boxes to collect, take a mission offering instead. These little boxes may be obtained by writing to the W.M.F. office, 425 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, Minn. They will be sent free of charge. Let us pray and give "That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is none else."

From the reports received in 1946, the total amount given through the mission boxes was \$573.62 in the Canada district. May we with God's help and willing hearts, increase that for 1947.

Still let us do to others as Thou hast done to me,

And look on all as brothers, Thy willing servants be.

Mrs. S. Bue, District mission box secretary.

work together with them to the glory of His name and the furtherance of His Kingdom.—Inanda Hoyme, editor

Gleanings from District President's Convention Report

In presenting this, my last report of the W.M.F., my thoughts go back over a period of 6-7 years, not only to the short vision, the standstills and the failures, but also to the never-ending goodness of God and the many blessings He has granted our organization. I remember, too, all the splendid circuit presidents, as well as the other officers and their share in the progress made. And last, but not least, I am reminded of the many faithful Ladies' Aid presidents who have tried to put our W.M.F. into practice.

To the co-operation of these officers and to the prayers of many Christians, is due the present progress of the W.M.F.

In the Canada District the W.M.F. is organized in all but the Manitoba circuit. Although there are only four Ladies' Aids there, we are still hoping that a circuit organization will be possible for them too.

The spiritual aspect of the W.M.F. is its greatest value. To reach through the Aid into the heart of each woman and bring Christ into her life and into her home — that is our first task. To develop a sound Christian home by means of Bible reading, a family altar, and temperance teachings — that is the second task. Then, to awaken an interest in Missions, and the ingathering of money for the work of the church — that is the final task.

The W.M.F. has backed the appeals for help from the various institutions of our church, such as Camrose Lutheran College, S.L.B.I., and Bethany Sunset Home. The latest appeal comes from Luther Seminary for kitchen equipment. Already the response is fine.

The work of the W.M.F. has been very dear to me. In fact, it has been like a dear child, and I have watched it grow and develop. I have also constantly prayed that it would become a great blessing to our women in Canada. I shall follow its future with the greatest interest and my sincerest prayers will go with the new president in all her many and varied duties. May God bless her and all of you.

Yours in Christ,
Magda Hendrickson.

Camrose L.D.R.

On July 23 the Camrose L.D.R. held a Christmas party in the church parlors for the purpose of packing a gift box for the Shishmarar mission. The enrollment of this L.D.R. is thirty, including junior members.

The contributions for the box, together with wrapping paper and ribbon, were brought to the church and a very pleasant half hour was spent wrapping the gifts. The junior members took delight in placing the parcels under the tiny Christmas tree which was decorated with lights for the occasion.

For devotion the Christmas story was read. This thought was mentioned in the worship offering meditation that we might have more time to think of those to whom we give and to realize the experience of giving, away from the bustling activity of the Christmas season.

In the soft light of the little tree the girls joined hands and walked around it singing, one after another, the Christmas songs. A special treat of ice cream and Christmas cake, made by one of the girls, was served.

Our Christmas party was one of the best L.D.R. programs we have had this year and many donations were received. We hope that the gifts may be useful to our friends in Alaska and that they may also be a means of making known to new Eskimo friends the Saviour's love for them.